

## AMENDMENTS TO THE SPECIFICATION

Please amend the specification by replacing the title on page 1, line 5, with the following:

### A METHOD AND SYSTEM FOR PROTOCOL SELECTION FOR COMMUNICATION WITH A REMOTELY LOCATED OBJECT

Please replace the paragraph on page 3, lines 21 to 22, to page 4, lines 1 to 3, with the following:

To provide the user with control over the selection process, the configuration associated with the client or with the application is designed to include one or more properties that may be set by the user. Properties may indicate, for example, to always use a secure method of communication or always use a proxy. If a property is set indicating exclusive use of a certain protocol, then ~~for~~ protocols not satisfying the properties will not be selected.

Please replace the paragraph on page 5, lines 1 to 20, with the following:

Referring to FIGS. 1 and 2, during the course of processing of an application at a client 10, the need arises to evoke a specific object 20 remotely located at the server 12. The IOR (interceptable object reference) 16 associated with the targeted object is pushed to the ORB (object request broker) 18. The IOR contains information 32 about the type of object being referenced and one or more profiles 34. Each profile represent a protocol, i.e., a way to contact another computer, typically a server. IIOP and TCP are a typical protocols. For secure communication IIOP/SSL is a typical protocol. A profile may contain one or more components. Components are typically communication processes that perform on top of or in conjunction with a protocol. For example, where communication must pass a proxy such as a firewall, the proxy server is indicated as a component of the profile, and the specified protocol, e.g. IIOP, will operate under or using the gatekeeper. Another example is where the communication must be secure, SSL may be indicated as a component to be used with a protocol e.g. TCP. The term protocol is used broadly so as to include components such as a proxy server and SSL as well as independent protocols such as TCP and

IIOP. At the client there is are protocol modules 22 each containing the instructions (i.e. code) for operating a particular protocol to establish communication between the two computers (e.g., client and server). Furthermore, each protocol module has an associated bidder 24, containing logic for generating a bid according to the IOR 16, the setting of the configuration 26, user preferences 38 and target object constraints 36. Target object constraints are name value pairs, for example, "always secure, true" is an example of a typical target constraint.

Please replace the paragraph on page 5, lines 21 to 22, to page line 6, lines 1 to 4 with the following:

When the ORB at the client receives the IOR specifying multiple protocols, it must determine which protocol to use. The one or more protocols are individually identified in the IOR in its profiles. Each protocol bidder ~~check~~ checks the profiles in the IOR to determine whether ~~is it~~ recognizes any of them. If it recognizes one of the profiles it submits a bid. If it does not recognize any of the profiles, it does not submit a bid. Alternatively, the ORB solicits bids from each protocol bidder that is registered with the ORB.

Please replace the paragraph on page 6, lines 9 to 15, with the following:

If the user wants to specify that certain protocol be used under certain circumstances, the user sets the configuration 26 at the client. The configuration includes properties that relate to the use of the protocols. The user specifies how the protocols should be used by setting these properties in the configuration. For example, if the user want to specify that all communications must be transmitted over a secure protocol, the user sets the always\_secure property. Another ~~property is called alway\_proxy which~~ property, called always\_proxy, indicates that all communications must pass through the gateway.

Please replace the paragraph on page 6, lines 16 to 21, to page 7, lines 1 to 2, with the following:

The bid value is determined based on the properties settings in a predefined manner. If `always_secure` is set then SSL protocol submits a very low value, so that it gets priority over the other protocols. In addition, if ~~`always_secure`~~ `always secure` is set then the protocols ~~which~~ that do not provide secure communication will not submit a bid because otherwise, if the SSL protocol fails then an insecure protocol will be tried, contrary to the property setting. If no properties are set or if a protocol is not affected by the specified properties, then the default values are submitted. Instances where a protocol does not submit a bid include where the property settings preclude the protocol or where the protocol does not recognize the definitions in the profiles.

Please replace the paragraph on page 8, lines 1 to 9, with the following:

When determining a bid value for a protocol, the protocol bidder references the configuration 26, target object constraints 36, and user preferences 38. If the protocol is listed on the exclusivity list, then the bid value ~~with~~ will be set within the exclusivity range 44 and entered into the portfolio 40. If a protocol is listed on the critical list, the associated bid value will be within the critical range 42. For protocols not listed, the bid value will be set within the normal range 46. Finally, the priority list is referenced and the bid values within a range are adjusted so that the order defined by the priority list is preserved. It should be understood by one skilled in the art that determining the bid value may be performed in one step or a series of steps without any impact on the invention.